

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 10 and 11 are hereby added, claim 2 is cancelled, and amended claims 1 and 3 – 9 remain pending.

Claim Objections

Claims 2, 6, and 9 were cited for informalities which have been corrected or obviated by this amendment.

Prior Art Rejection

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hajek et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,408,748). Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hajek et al. in view of Kobayashi et al. Claims 7, 8, 9 stand rejected under Hajek et al. in view of Gotz (U.S. Patent No. 5,656,909). These rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

As has been set forth in the specification, the instant invention as claimed provides its roller bearing, motor stator and rotor, bearing housing and motor housing in a single unit which can readily be fitted to existing cylinders. The structural unit is attached to the end face of the journal so that whereas the roller bearing substantially overlies the journal (which it must, for support), the stator and rotor lie axially beyond the end of the journal. In addition to facilitating the retrofitting of direct motor drive to a given roller, this structural arrangement helps preserve the desired stator/rotor gap for optimal operation (page 7, lines 22 – 35).

Cited Figure 33 of Hajek et al. shows a very different arrangement, in which the rotor of the motor is directly affixed to an axial extent of the journal. Consequently, this arrangement cannot provide the present invention's modularity, in which the key elements are bundled together as a single structural unit, nor can it provide the same surety of stator/rotor air gap as the present invention provides. Therefore, the rejections under Section 102(b) are improper and should be withdrawn. Similarly, the secondary references used in the obviousness rejections do not cure these deficiencies in Hajek et al. and are therefore also improper and should be withdrawn.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 3 - 11 are patentable and that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account # 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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